

## Message Text

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65

ACTION ORM-02

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00

DHA-02 VO-03 SCA-01 INSE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

DODE-00 L-03 AID-05 SS-15 NSC-05 H-02 SSO-00 NSCE-00

INRE-00 /102 W

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O P 291415Z JUL 76

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1527

AMCONSUL HONG KONG PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CONFIDENTIAL GENEVA 6091

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF

SUBJECT: INDOCHINESE REFUGEES: BOAT CASES MV AVA

REF: (A) GENEVA 6058; (B) STATE 187024

1. RE PARA 4 REF A, MISSION HAS NOW RECEIVED FORMAL LETTER SIGNED BY DEPUTY HIGH COMMISSIONER MACE TRANSMITTING APPEAL "NOTE" TO SECSTATE. FORWARDING LETTER ESSENTIALLY SAME AS THAT TRANSMITTED REF A WITH EXCEPTION THAT "PROBLEM OF REFUGEES OR DISPLACED PERSONS" IN PARA 1 HAS BEEN CHANGED TO READ "PROBLEMS OF SMALLL GROUPS OF INDOCHINESE DISPLACED PERSONS," ETC. ALSO FINAL SENTENCE OF PARA 1 HAS BEEN DELETED AS HAVE

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WORDS "OF SOME REPRESENTATIVES" IN PARA 2.

2. ATTACHED "NOTE ON PERSONS LEAVING THE INDOCHINESE PENNISULA ON SMALL BOATS" HAS BEEN CHANGED SUBSTANTIALLY AND SHORTENED, AND IS THEREFORE TRANSMITTED IN ITS ENTIRETY IN ITS NEW FORM:

QUOTE

1. DURING RECENT MONTHS, GROUPS OF INDOCHINESE DISPLACED PERSONS HAVING LEFT THEIR HOMES, SET TO SEA ON SMALL BOATS. MANY OF THEM HAVE BEEN RESCUED AT SEA BY SHIPS IN THE REGION. OFTEN THE PERSONS THUS RESCUED HAVE BEEN GIVEN PERMISSION TO DISEMBARK AT THE NEXT PORT OF CALL ONLY IF ASSURANCES WERE GIVEN THAT RESETTLEMENT OPPORTUNITIES WOULD BE IMMEDIATELY AVAILABLE FOR THEM.

2. IN OTHER CASES, SMALL GROUPS WHO HAVE TRIED TO REACH A PORT IN THEIR OWN BOATS HAVE BEEN OBLIGED TO REMAIN ABOARD, EVEN WITHIN SIGHT OF SHORE, UNTIL A COUNTRY HAS DECIDED TO ADMIT THEM, EITHER TEMPORARILY OR FOR PERMANENT SETTLEMENT. THIS HAS OFTEN INVOLVED SEVERE HARSHSHIP TO THOSE ON BOARD WHO HAVE BEEN IN DIRE NEED OF ASSISTANCE, PARTICULARLY WHEN CHILDREN, OLD PERSONS OR PREGNANT WOMEN WERE INVOLVED.

3. THE PROBLEMS FACED BY THESE PERSONS COULD BE OVERCOME BY THE COMBINED EFFORT OF TRADITIONAL IMMIGRATION COUNTRIES AND OTHERS CAPABLE OF ABSORBING THEM IF SUFFICIENT PLACES ARE MADE AVAILABLE FOR THEM TO SETTLE PERMANENTLY. CONSIDERABLE EFFORTS HAVE ALREADY BEEN MADE TO FIND COUNTRIES OF DURABLE RESETTLEMENT FOR SUCH PERSONS, AND TO FACILITATE THEIR LOCAL INTEGRATION IN COUNTRIES OF FIRST ASYLUM. HOWEVER FURTHER EFFORTS ARE NEEDED.

4. THE HIGH COMMISSIONER BROUGHT THIS PROBLEM TO THE ATTENTION OF PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES IN GENEVA OF STATES MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER'S PROGRAMME AT A MEETING ON 25 JUNE 1976, WHEN HE SUGGESTED THAT SOME COUNTRIES MIGHT CONSIDER THE POSSIBILITY OF GRANTING SMALL QUOTAS FOR SUCH SPECIAL CASES. THE HIGH COMMISSIONER REFERRED TO THE POSSIBILITY OF A SCHEME ALONG THE LINES OF THE "TEN OR MORE PLAN" IN WHICH MANY COUNTRIES PRESENTLY PARTICIPATE TO FACILITATE THE RESETTLEMENT OF HANDICAPPED REFUGEES. SUCH A SCHEME IS PLANNED FOR A

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PERIOD OF, SAY, ONE YEAR.

5. THE SUGGESTION MADE BY THE HIGH COMMISSIONER WERE WELCOMED BY REPRESENTATIVES, WHO WERE ASSURED THAT UNHCR WOULD LOOK INTO THE STATUS OF ALL PERSONS PROPOSED FOR RESETTLEMENT IN ORDER TO ENSURE THAT THE SCHEME WAS NOT ABUSED. IT IS HOPED THAT GOVERNMENTS OF COUNTRIES CAPABLE OF ADMITTING SUCH PERSONS MIGHT THEREFORE BE WILLING TO PROVIDE A SPECIAL ADMISSION QUOTA IN AN INTERNATIONAL

EFFORT TO RESOLVE THIS PROBLEM. IT IS RECALLED THAT THE TOTAL NUMBER OF SUCH ARRIVALS, SO FAR IS ESTIMATED TO BE SOME 900 PERSONS AT VARIOUS PORTS IN SOUTH EAST ASIA, WHILE SOME SOME OF THE COUNTRIES IN THE REGION HAVE BEEN GENEROUS IN ALLOWING THESE PERSONS TO DISEMBARK TEMPORARILY, OTHERS ARE BEGINNING TO FOLLOW AN INCREASINGLY RESTRICTIVE POLICY. IT IS CLEAR, HOWEVER, THAT THE COUNTRIES OF THE REGION ARE NOT IN A POSITION TO FULLY ABSORB THIS ADDITIONAL CASELOAD.

6. THE FOLLOWING SCHEME IS ACCORDINGLY PROPOSED FOR CONSIDERATION BY GOVERNMENTS:

A. EACH GOVERNMENT PARTICIPATING IN THE SCHEME WOULD INFORM UNHCR OF ITS WILLINGNESS TO CONSIDER GRANTING AT SHORT NOTICE ENTRY VISAS TO A GIVEN NUMBER OF INDOCHINESE PERSONS RESCUED AT SEA OR OTHERWISE ARRIVING ON BOATS AT PORTS IN SOUTH EAST ASIA.

B. UNHCR WOULD REQUEST THE GOVERNMENT OF THE COUNTRY OF THE FIRST PORT OF CALL TO GRANT TEMPORARY ENTRY TO SUCH PERSONS ON THE FOLLOWING BASIS:

I. UNHCR WOULD GIVE REASONABLE ASSURANCES FOR THE EARLY DEPARTURE OF THE PERSONS CONCERNED TO ONE OR MORE OF THE COUNTRIES PARTICIPATING IN THE SCHEME;

II. UNHCR WOULD PROVIDE FOR ANY NECESSARY CARE AND MAINTENANCE TO BE GIVEN TO THESE PERSONS PENDING THEIR RESETTLEMENT.

C. UNHCR WOULD IMMEDIATELY UPON ARRIVAL OF SUCH PERSONS INTERVIEW THEM TO ENSURE THEIR STATUS UNDER THE SCHEME. RESETTLEMENT DOSSIERS WOULD THEN BE PREPARED BY UNHCR FOR PRESENTATION TO THE AUTHORITIES CONCERNED OF THE COUNTRIES PARTICIPATING IN THE SCHEME.

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D. UPON NOTIFICATION THAT A RESETTLEMENT VISA HAD BEEN GRANTED, UNHCR WOULD ARRANGE FOR TRANSPORTATION OF THE PERSON TO THE COUNTRY OF RESETTLEMENT. IF REQUIRED, UNHCR WOULD MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO PROVIDE THE NECESSARY FUNDS TO COVER THE COST OF THIS TRANSPORTATION.

UNQUOTE

3. UNHCR REPORTS THAT APPEAL HAS BEEN ADDRESSED INITIALLY TO FOLLOWING COUNTRIES: AUSTRALIA, AUSTRIA, BELGIUM, BRAZIL, CANADA, COLOMBIA, DENMARK, FRANCE, FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY, GREECE, HOLY SEE, IRAN, ITALY, NETHERLANDS, NORWAY, SWEDEN, SWITZERLAND, TURKEY, UNITED KINGDOM, UNITED STATES, VENEZUELA,

AND NEW ZEALAND.

4. FOR DEPARTMENT/HA: WILSON CARRYING TEXT OF LETTER  
AND APPEAL NOTE WITH HIM. ABRAMS

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** SHIPS, REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 29 JUL 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** morefirh  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
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**Page Count:** 4  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 76 GENEVA 6058, 76 STATE 187024  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** morefirh  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 06 JAN 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <06 JAN 2004 by morefirh>; APPROVED <06 Jan 2004 by morefirh>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** INDOCHINESE REFUGEES: BOAT CASES MV AVA  
**TAGS:** SREF, XC  
**To:** STATE HONG KONG  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006